

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MANAMA 580 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI
DOHA KUWAIT PARIS TEHRAN MAR 08.

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL IN BAHRAIN

1. SHORT TRANSIT VISIT TO BAHRAIN OF TEHRAN SAIC DEDICH
PROVIDED EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR REVIEW MARCH 6 OF
NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN BAHRAIN WITH DIRECTOR OF CID,
SHAIKH ABDUL RAHMAN BIN RASHID AL KHALIFA UND BRITISH
INVESTIGATOR JOHN BRUMBLY WHO HAS BECOME UNOFFICIAL CID LIAISON
FOR ALL FOREIGN MATTERS. BAHRAIN'S OWN NARCOTICS PROBLEM IS
MINISCULE BY ANY STANDARDS BUT CID TAKES GREAT PRIDE IN ITS
SUCCESES. DEDICH WAS OFFERED COMPLETE COOPERATION ON ONE
MULTILATERAL DRUG-RELATED CASE INVOLVING BAHRAIN, IRAN, WEST
GERMANY AND TURKEY.

2. BIGGEST SUCCESS IN BAHRAIN HAS BEEN IMPROVEMENT IN CUSTOMS
PROCEDURES UNDER DIRECTION OF DEA ALUMNUS ABDULLAH HAMZA,
SENIOR CUSTOMS OFFICER AT AIRPORT. CID BELIEVES THAT CUSTOMS
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IS DOING OUTSTANDING JOB AND IS NOW INTERCEPTING SMALL
SHIPMENTS OF HASHISH AND OPIUM WHICH ARE BEING TRANSPORTED
THROUGH AIRPORT BY SMALL USER/DEALERS FROM IRAN AND SUB-
CONTINENT. POLICE OFFICIALS DID NOT OFFER STATISTICS BUT
INDICATED TOTAL AMOUNTS NOT REALLY SIGNIFICANT BUT CONTINUOUS.
POLICE ARE PAYING REWARDS FOR THESE SEIZURE BELIEVE THIS
IS PRIMARY REASON FOR CUSTOMS ENTHUSIASM.

3. CID'S OWN NARCOTICS UNIT IS VERY SMALL AND INEXPERIENCED. THE ONLY NARCOTICS TRAINED POLICE OFFICER HAS LEFT THE POLICE FORCE AND NEW HEAD OF SECTION IS VERY YOUNG OFFICER WITHOUT MUCH POLICE EXPERIENCE OF ANY TYPE. HE DOES APPEAR, HOWEVER, ANXIOUS TO LEARN. AT TIME OF VISIT HE WAS IN EGYPT FOR FOUR-MONTH TRAINING COURSE. SHAIKH ABDUL RAHMAN SAID THAT HIS UNIT WAS MAKING FEW MINOR SEIZURES WHICH WERE USUALLY IRANIAN GOVT PREPARED OPIUM STICKS DIVERTED FROM IRAN'S LICIT CHANNELS. HE TAKES AS BEST SIGN OF BAHRAIN'S CONTROL EFFECTIVENESS FACT THAT SEVERAL OLDER ADDICTS HAVE RECENTLY APPROACHED THE POLICE FOR HELP AS THEY CAN NO LONGER FIND PRODUCT ON MARKET OR CANNOT AFFORD THE PRICE.

4. BOTH BAHRAIN OFFICIALS MENTIONED POSSIBILITY THAT WITH INCREASED MAJOR AIR ROUTING THROUGH BAHRAIN, NARCOTICS FROM FAR EAST AND SUBCONTINENT ARE PASSING THROUGH BAHRAIN AIRPORT. BOTH SAID, HOWEVER, THAT BAHRAIN POLICE FORCE TOO SMALL AND TOO BUSY TO TRY TO MONITOR THIS. SHAIKH ABDUL RAHMAN DID IMPLY FULL COOPERATION IF SPECIFIC INFORMATION WERE DEVELOPED.

5. MR. BRUMBLY (WHEN ALONE) SAID THAT HE HAD SUGGESTED USE OF BAHRAIN'S NARCOTICS TRAINED DOG AT THE TRANSIT CARGO AREA OF THE AIRPORT BUT THAT THE AIRPORT AUTHORITIES REFUSED TO EVEN CONSIDER THIS PLAN. HE SAID THAT BAHRAINI WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT U.S. NAVY SHIP HAD RECENTLY ASKED THE POLICE TO USE THEIR DOG ON BOARD DURING PORT VISIT. THIS NOT ONLY PROVIDED EXCELLENT EXPERIENCE FOR BAHRAIN POLICE BUT WAS MORALE AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COUP.

6. DEDICH MENTIONED PROBABLE NARCOTICS TRAINING IN KUWAIT IN NEAR FUTURE. SHAIKH ABDUL RAHMAN WELCOMED THIS NEWS WHICH HE RECALLED HAD BEEN IN PLANNING STAGE FOR SOME TIME. BAHRAIN WOULD CERTAINLY SEND PARTICIPANTS WHEN INVITED. ON TRAINING FOR LT. SHAIKH RASHID, THE NEW HEAD OF NARCOTICS UNIT, BRUMBLY BELIEVES, AND EMBASSY CONCURS, THAT TIME IS NOT RIPE. (COMMENT: SHAIKH RASHID SPEAKS VERY LITTLE ENGLISH ALTHOUGH HE APPEARS TO UNDERSTAND MUCH MORE. IF DEA SHOULD OFFER GOOD COURSE IN ARABIC AT FUTURE DATE, SHAIKH RASHID SHOULD BE CONSIDERED THEN.)
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